THE CONCORD TRANSCENDENTALISTS. A FAMILIAR TALK IN JOSEPH COOK'S PARLORS-BEONSON ALCOTT'S EVENING.

FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. Boston, April 21.—The Rev. Joseph Cook's parlors at the Hotel Believue, in this city, have been opened during the Winter for a monthly conversation, or symposium, conducted by the venerable Bronson Alcott, the Concord transcendentalist. Mr. Alcott and Mr. Cook have aimed to invite representative men, theo-logical professors, doctors of divinity, literary men and leading laymen, to participate in the discussions, and have brought together persons as diverse in their views as Dr. Bartol and President Warren, or as Samuel Johnson and young Professor Borden P. Lowne. The gatherings have certainly been unique, delightful and in-

Two weeks ago the parlors were crowded to hear Mr. Alcott discourse, in his familiar, conversational style, on his Concord friends, living and deceased, who have been known as leaders in the transcendental movement, and none who were present will soon forget the utterances of that occasion. Mr. Alcott himself is nearly eighty years old, a tall, well-proportioned, sunny old gentleman, with long, silvery hair, a merry twinkle in his eye, and some remembrance of boyhood still lighting up his countenance. He has always been a great talker. In fact, it tenance. He has always been a great talker. In fact, it is said that he has done but little else all his life. The success of his daughter, Louisa Alcott, as the writer of "Little Women" and kindred books, has placed him in comfortable circumstances, and he now spends a good part of his time as a New-England Secrates, in asking and answering ques-tions which are put to him in public and private circles. He is a wise man and has much dry wit for the seasoning of his speech. As many strange things are said of him as of Emerson or Thorcau, but with all his vagaries or transcendental theories he has always combined such an amount of good sense and such a genial spirit that friends spring up in his path wherever he goes. His task a fortnight since was one which demanded great delicacy and tact, because he touched upon the marked peculiarities of living persons, but I heard nothing which offended good taste or which trenched upon the obligations of friendship; and he said so much which is of interest to a wider circle than the fifty persons who could listen to him in Mr. Cook's parlors, that I send you a pretty full report of his informal address. His audience was select if not large, and included many men who have made or are making their mark. He aimed to give only outlines, not full portraits, and began his address with the remark that American literature which had anything original in it was not yet over fifty years old. The substance of what he said follows:

EMERSON. "Emerson is our first traly American or New England writer. Abroad he is regarded as our chief representative author, and has had a wider infinence than any of his contemporaries upon our younger writers. If he is less read than other authors, he always controls his readers. It is always Emerson himself who is speaking. He is not a wide reader, and yet nothing has escaped him. He is an absorbing reader. This is always a characteristic of genius. While it borrows, it hides its berrowings." Mr. Alcott then traced the genesis of one of Emerson's essays. "He is a man of the country and is familiar with nature. He loves solitude and knows what to do with it. He does nothing or thinks nothing which he does not put down in his journal or note-book. So in an interview with a friend or in reading a book, the best thing said or read goes into the diary. It doesn't take him long to read a book. It is a good rule to read the last sentence of most books and skim the rest. All scholars know what this means. The point is to get the outcome of a person in the quickest He knows how to get the honey out way. books, nature and experience. He has the eye of a New-Englander, and his observations go into his common-place books. What is to be done with them? When an idea seizes him he turns to these note-books to see what he has upon it. This paragraph, he says, is good for a beginning. one is best to close with. Once I went into his study and found him lying on the floor with the sheets of his common-place book spread out in every direction, while he was trying to gather up from them what he wanted for the essay in hand. When he has called what he wants after keeping it six months returned it and then borand shuffled his materials into some form, he goes out to read his lecture, and tries it on people to see how it fits, and when he is satisfied by actual experience that there is something in it, he sends it to press. He does not read He had published a few works, but didn't know that any criticisms on his writings, and while he always listens with courtesy to the advice of others, is seldom known to follow it. He writes almost as well as bright and cultivated women converse. They always speak the best English. Emerson has been before the public forty years, and may be fairly said to have made the American lecture. No course of first-class lectures | chiefly made up of selections from them. His gift was for many years has been thought to be complete without one from him. When he first began to lecture in Boston the people were hardly up to him, and used to say, 'He belongs to a family of insane people.' The late Jeremiah Mason, noted for his strong common sense, was persuaded by his daughters to attend one of Emerson's ectures in those early days. He consented, and when asked his opinion, said, turning to his daughters, 'I don't understand it, but the girls can tell you all about it. Emerson is the typical gentleman of this country for | Questions were now put to him as rapidly as he could

HAWTHORNE. Mr. Alcott then passed on to Hawthorne. "There is a myth,"he said, "about the great romancer that he was so shy that he was never seen in Salem by daylight. He was as coy as a maiden, and had to be courted in much the same manner. He could never be induced to go be fore the public. When in London he went to the Lord Mayor's dinner on the pledge that he should not be asked to make a speech. He was called on, however, and, to his own and the surprise of everybody else, made one good speech in Eugland. He was my nearest neighbor. Our estates were side by side, but Hawthorne never entered his friend's gate but twice in four years. His visits then were to my daughters. The first time he soon excased himself because the stove was too hot, the next atime because the clock ticked too loud. His habit was to hide himself, after dinner, in the remotest corner of the room, and enjoy the conversation without taking any part in it. His method of writing was much like Emerson's, out of common-place books. He was a man of dark type (alluding to his features and temperament). and there is a certain darkness running through all his writings. He is very great on sin. He can track a sinner through all his purificus better than any man I have known. This makes his writings most interesting to young people. They like intensity. There is a fine humor, wit, or rather from, running through his ro-mances and stories. All his books make for virtue. They are not always wholesome, and yet they are moral. They intimate rather than speak the religious type of thought."

MARGARET FULLER Mr. Alcott then turned to Margaret Fuller. "Wherever there is a noble man, there is a noble woman not far off. Margaret Fuller is the representative American woman. Her book, 'Woman in the Nineteenth Century,' is what most men and women accept as truth. But she is not in her books. She was great in conversation. This is the special grace of women, and she had it." Mr. Alcott re feferred to the Transcendental Club, where the members were all persons who have since made a name in the world, and said that, though wit and brightness were there in abundance, Margaret Fuller always carried off the palm by her speeches and conversation "She was not only scholarly, but eminently womanly. Man is man because intellect leads his affections, and woman is woman because her affections lead the intellect. Genius makes men and women alike in this respect It has the best in each sex. Margaret Fuller had the best gifts of man added to those of a woman. When sh spent any time in the house of a friend every one sought her, and even the servants consulted her as to their private wishes."

THOREAU AND CHANNING. Though Mr. Alcott's touches were rapid, the company listened with the closest attention and the keenest enjoyment to what he said. He passed on ito Henry D. There are strange myths about him. Perpetual truthfulness was his chief attribte. If he seemed cyulcul at times, it was only his way of looking at society. There have been various attempts to plant Paradise in New-England, and Thorcau's has been the most success. ful of all! He began with himself." Mr. Alcort said that there was great truth in the remark of Socrates that "he who has the fewest wants is most a man." Thoreau's Walden Pond experiment was then described at length. "It was Emerson's land that Thoreau adventured upon. He borrowed an axe, dug his cellar and potato hole himself, bargained with a wild frishman for a shauty in the neighborhood, which furnished boards and nails at the expense of a dollar and a half, paid for the shanty with some work at surveying for a Concord farmer, put up his own shanty with the assistance of Emerson, Alcott and others who attended the raising, provided himself with a Homer and New Testament or Bible as a library, and began his eighteen months' experiment of getting acquainted with himself and with what was in Concord. He believed that he dwelt in the centre of the universe, and had serious thoughts of annexing the rest of the planet to Concord. He had a pair of eyes in that head of his. The fable is told of him that a certain flower

near Walden Pond always delayed its blossom until

Thoreau came to give it his recognition and blessing He knew nature better than any man before him. Not even Gilbert White, of Selborne, knew it better. He was a good visitor. He knew what to say, and when to leave, and did not come too often. Eight volumes of his writings have been published, and there are as many more to be collected out of his note-books by the competent editor. This man was not destitute of affection. He knew what the tender passion was. He was known to be a little tender once to a wild Irish girl who walked

with him in the country." The next portrait which Mr. Alcott painted was that of William Ellery Channing, the nephew of the Channing. "There are three Channings living whose names begin with William-William F., William Ellery, and William Henry, William Ellery is a poet. He writes fine passages, but not whole poems. He is the shyest of men. I have only called on him three times in many years. He comes and goes when he pleases. If he calls on Friday, he will call the next Friday, and will be sure to bring racy, fresh talk with him; but if you allude to himself or to his uncle, he doesn't know whom you are talking about. His modesty is equal to his rhymes. He doesn't know that the man Channing lives anywhere,

and has never seen him." LOUISA ALCOTT. Mr. Alcott had been requested by Mr. Cook and others to say some things about his gifted daughter, Miss Louisa Alcott, and rather reluctantly he consented to do so. He began with the remark that she peeped over her moral sense once, and got the benefit of it. "She began to keep a diary or note-book when only five years old, and has done so ever since. She got her culture at home and through her experience. She began authorship by writing letters. Then she ventured stories; then followed the reading of them to her parents and sisters; then the acting of them as dramas; then a model theatre in the attic. She had her grandmother's brocade silk dress, which had been off duty well nigh a century, as a costume, and the grandfather's military suit, also faithfully preserved, aid duty for the hero of the occasion. The old people were studiously kept down stairs, and what went on could only be judged by the peals of laughter which came from the boys and girls who were fortunate cord enough to be invited to the performance in the attic. The next step was to transfer the theatre to the barn, where the private theatricals soon made considerable noise in the town. This gave her stories notoriety. Then other stories were written. It was noised abroad that they existed. An editor heard of them, and got one for his journal. His papers disappeared so fast that he wanted another. In this way the first fruit of authorship, a five-dollar note, came to hand, and caused a flutter of joy in the young girl's life. When the late war came, Mr. Alcott had no boys to do the fighting, and Louisa felt that she must represent the family in the Union Army, and went to Georgetown as nurse. Here she was taken dangerously ill, and here, upon her recovery, she wrote the letters home which were published as 'Hospital Sketches.' These made her known. Then she wrote a two-volume navel. which a publisher compelled her to cut down into one volame, because he aidn't believe anybody would read a novel in two volumes, and the result was that the book was spoilt. Miss Alcott now determined to take author ship into her own hands and please herself. 'Little Women' was the first result of this decision, and the rest of Louisa's career is familiar to the public." Mr. Alcott said that he had now become known as the grandfather of these little women, and he was not ashamed of the compliment. In response to a question, he added, as he closed his address: "I regard it as the finest stroke of fortune I have known to have had the friendship of Emerson. It is a friendship which dates back forty

TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF. It was the original plan that when Mr. Alcott finished his address Professor Bowne should act as master of ceremones and call up others, but so much interest had been awakened that after one or two had briefly spoken and confessed their indebtedness to Emerson, volunteer questions were asked-could no longer be kept back-and the venerable transcendentalist was called up from his chair to tell the company more things about himself, and what his methods of reading and writing were. He said that he was brought up in a small Connecticut town (Wolcott), where he had few books and few opportunities for culture. He was educated on the "Pilgrim's Progress." He borrowed the book of a neighbor, and rowed it again. This he did every six months, until the book was given to him. He could not properly call himself a writer. body had ever read them. He was an unpublished author. He had always kept a note-book. He had put everything into it; interviews with men, visits to friends, extracts, his own thoughts, whatever came to him. He had seventy volumes of these diaries, some of them containing over a thousand pages. His printed books were not in writing, but he should have enjoyed it very much if some friend had reported his conversations and allowed him to edit them. As it was, he was an author in quantity, if not in quality. But he had a special difficulty. His diaries had no index, and he couldn't tell where his best things were. He had put into them everything that interested him, and wished he could have a friend to make an index for him. He began his diary seventy-five years ago, when he was about ten years old. modesty, for grace of manner, for magnanimity, for answer them. One was whether Snakespeare kept a note-book. Mr. Alcott thought that he got the best things for his plays at the club. Then the point was nade by one of the company that Hawtherne rather shunned literary society, and was more at home with the Salem sea captains and with other rough, hearty men, than in cultivated society. This brought out a new story from Mr. Alcott. Hawthorne's house in Concord was very near the forest, where he could easily hide himself, but this was not enough. He seemed at times morbidly anxious to getaway from mankind. To do this be had a tower built on the top of the hill near his house. Its stairs were so narrow that you could only go up or down by holding on to both rails, and it to be said that Hawthorne had a trap-door at the top, and that when he wanted to be absolutely alone he ed to ascend the tower and sit down on the trap-door.

Mr. Alcost said he never saw the trap-door, but the rest of the story was true. EMERSON'S RELIGIOUS VIEWS. Great interest was felt in Emerson, and Mr. Alcott was rather closely pressed to tell what his friend's religious views were. This was very delicate ground, and it was not easy to answer direct questions without going beyoud the limits of friendship, but Mr. Alcott gave his wise answer: "Mr. Emerson is an ethical writer. In him the Puritan type ripened, but did not take the Puritan form. His modesty did not allow him to put his thought into the usual forms, and so he was silent. He frequently attends the Unitarian Church, and his daughter is one of its most devoted members. Emerson is absolutely sincere in these respects. Except in one sentence in his essay on Immortality he accepts that doctrine. He is a Christian theist; an individual that belongs to the church of one member. His creed is unwritten. He is better than his creed. He is a man to be taken by the hand among all Christians as a brother. I have never fully sympathized with him in his religious opinions. There is a type of mind which does not express its inmost convictions, and Emerson has it. He is greatly beloved by the Concord people, and is universally regarded as their foremost citizen in every good work. You can always cell when Emerson is appealing to the common sense of the people. His favorite gesture, when he has anything homely and terse to say, is an angular forward thrust of his fists. He is a thinker, but his writings appeal very strongly to all men by their vigorous common sense."

Mr. Alcott had a further word about Thoreau. " He ras the first man to call John Brown a hero. Early in the late war he wrote out his views and read them to Emerson, who dissented from them. Thoreau was de termined that the world should listen to them, and began with Concord. The selectmen were timid, and refused him the Town Hall. Thoreau then took the matter into his own hands. He rang the bell himself, and the citizens, hastily gathering as for a fire, had the privilege of listening to Thoreau's lecture, which had fire indeed. Later on Emerson adopted Thoreau's view, and wrote his famous lecture on John Brown. Thoreau once had difficulty with the town authorities. would not pay his tax of \$1 50, and was put in the jail. Here he tried to convert his fellow-convicts, and did not succeed, but he wrote a lecture on the world in general, and on Concord in particular, from the prison point of view, and made the Concord people listen to it, when a friend paid his tax and secured his release, Thorenu was thirty-four years of age when he was at Walden Pond and got acquainted with himself. He was really interested in but few people. He knew who could

really interested in but few people. He knew who could teil him what he wanted to know, and he sought them. There were only two persons out of Concord who thoroughly sommanded his respect. One was John Brown, and the other was Wait Whitman. His casay on Friendship was written as an epithalamium on the nearringe of one of his dearest friends, and was one of his best productions."

Much conversation followed from one and another, but Mr. Alcott was really obliged to talk nearly all the evening. The session was so interesting that it was prolonged inevitably to a late hour, and there can hardly have been any gathering in Boston this season where more was crowded into three hours, which were all too short to satisfy the more than curious interest of bright men and women in the famous Concord transcendentalist, or where more was said which the world at large is anxious to know about the personality of men and women whose fame is perennial. These notes, however, are all that can properly be given of what was a most fascinating and memorable conversation.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES.

ROCKS AND ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOCUSTS. CHIEF SOURCE OF FERTILE SOIL-ORIGIN OF MOUNTAINS-HOW ANIMALS ARE DISTRIBUTED-THE CAREER OF THE BOCKY MOUNTAIN LOCUST.

[FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] Washington, April 29 .- The list of excellent essays delivered before the National Academy of Sciences has not been completed in the previous letters of this series, as will be seen by those which are here given in abstract. The geological essays of Professors Pumpelly and Le Conte give in brief synopsis a fair no tion of the most generally accepted theories as to the formation of the earth's surface—its flat, fertile regions and its mountain ranges. The essay of Professor Riley on the Rocky Mountain locust shows that the habits and character of the insect are now well understood, and that our Western farmers are not likely to suffer much from its incursions for some years to come.

SOIL MADE FROM ROCKS. Professor R. Pumpelly's essay on the Relation of Secular Rock Disintegration to Loess and Drift, has been mentioned by title in an earlier letter. Many points of popular interest were presented in this essay. aleareous loam which covers vast areas of the carth's surface ; in Northern China, several hundred thousand square miles; in the rest of Asia, yet larger areas; in the Mississippi Valley, perhaps an equal extent. The depth of this formation in Europe and Amerfea varies from a few feet to 150 or 200. While it can be crushed in the hand to a mere powder, it often supports itself for many years in vertical cliffs 200 feet high. On close examination it is found filled with tubular pores, branching downward, like rootlets; these are lined with carbonate of time and give it its consistency, owing to which it breaks in a vertical plane, leaving always perpendicular walls Its fossils are always of land animals; chiefly of land snails. Richthofeu's theory of the formation of loess is as follows: When winds in the interior of a continent are drained of their moisture-as, for instance, by its condensation on mountains near the coast-the interior country becomes and, its surface is bared, and the products of disintegration as the surface wears, are blown about by the wind and washed by occasional rains from the huls to the valleys. This material is, however, nutritive to the grasses of the steppe; they grow in and are eventually over whelmed beneath it in their successive growths. The loess, thus burying its own products, becomes a most fertile soil; the grain regions of China have been under cultivation for 4,000 years, without losing their productive power. This is partly due to its capacity for aborbing carbonic acid and ammonia, but chiefly to the capillary powers of its tubular structure, by which the nutritive salts below are raised toward the surface whenever there is sufficient moisture to fill them, or to communicate with the saline water below the drainage

The weak point in this theory is that the disintegration is not sufficiently accounted for, to explain the formation of such vast quantities of losss. Professor Pumpelly proposes to add to the sources of this material (1) the silt of rivers; after these streams are dry, the material they have brought down is blown about and becomes loess, (2) A secular disintegration of rocks has been going on from earlier geological ages, wherever land has remained above water for long periods; and this is, of course, more especially the case with the interior of our present continents. This decay has been estimated in general at a depth of 100 feet throughout the Southeastern States; numerous instances of it were cited, and its processes described by Professor Pumpelly. In the Northern part of our country this decayed rock was largely carried down by glacial action and deposited as moralne-the "glacial till." The process of rock-decay would be most active in the lower levels. and hence these would, form the areas most favorab for the production of losss in after ages, when those levels were no longer watered. Through such a series of changes as are thus briefly sketched, the great basins were probably formed; those of Asia were wind-swept and thus hollowed; those of Northern Europe and America were emptied by the ice of the glacial period; but the preparation in both instances had taken place

THE STRUCTURE AND ORIGIN OF MOUNTAINS. An essay with the above title, was read by the scere tary in the absence of its author, Professor Joseph Le Conte. The paper is, to a considerable extent, contro versial. It is intended as a reply to objections that have been brought against the "contractional theory," which explains the formation of mountain chains by their being forced up by horizontal pressure, during a contracting process of the earth's crust. The follow contracting process of the earth's crust. The following general statement is made respecting mountain ranges; they may be conveniently divided in two general classes, which, however, graduate completely into each other; viz., those which are composed of a single anticlinal fold, and those which are composed of a number of folds alternately anticlinal and synclinal, either open, as in the Jura, or closely appressed, as in the Appalachian, the Coast Range, the Alps, and many others. The one kind is formed where the earth is more rigid; the other where it yields more readily to the horizontal pressure. Both kinds are streatly modified, sometimes by metamorphism, sometimes by faulting, sometimes by wolcanic outlourers, and always by crosion. The various positions which the strata may be placed in, or rather forced into, by the above processes, are claiountely set forth in the essay, with illustrations and the citation of histoness. The objections which have been brought, on various grounds against the hypothesis, are separately condered and discussed. Finally, Professor Le Contestina up his theory to this effect: The place of a mountain range before it was yet formed, was a marginal sca-bottom, receiving abundant sediment from continental crosion. A line of eff-shore sediments from continental crosion, a line of the temperature beneath, and aqueo-igneous softening both of the sediments and of the original crust on which they were laid. This would determine a line of weakness and of yielding to horizontal pressure, and, therefore, of the formation of a mountain range, which would immediately thereafter begin to be sculptured by the active agents of erosion. There are thus three stages in the history of a mountain First, a preparatory siage of sedimentation, which may be called an embryonic stage; second, a stage of yielding to horizontal pressure, which is a speriod of birth and growth; third, a stage of crosive degradation, which is a period of decay, and gradually passes into a fourth stage of mountain death and l ing general statement is made respecting mountain

Professor Theodore Gill delivered an essay on "The Primary Zoogtaphical Divisions of the Globe, and their Relations." This was largely a discussion of two recent works: "Allen's Geographical Distribution of Animals," and a previous work of nearly similar title by Wallace. There are marked discrepancies between these writers and also among others who have considered the subject.

The following divisions have been proposed for the animal kingdom: Arctic, North American, European, In-dian, African, Lemurian, South American, Australian dian. African, Lemurian, South American, Australian and Polynesian. Perhaps Anfarctic might be added. Different writers have accepted some of these groups and rejected others, and no system is yet agreed upon. Messrs. Wallace and Alien favor the distribution of manmais as a basis: Professor Gill thinks that the prevalence of all forms of animal life should be cansidered. If we were to take birds alone, we should get very nearly the present divisions of our continents. If we should take fishes as a basis, a division more like an earlier geological epoch would be obtained. It is a question whether the Arctic reaim should be maintained as a separate division. If we consider the land animals alone, we shall find no complete differentiation for the Arctic region; it has no distinct animals. The European and North American regions are well distinguished; the mammals are in very many instances distinct, and the fishes present a half dezen families peculiar to each realm; and a similar division must be conceded to invertebrates. Professor Gill is hellined to think the Arctic division might be merged in the North American. Possibly the Indian and African might be combined in one realm; together they would make a great division of fine clobe; but imquestionally there is room for a yet greater differences between them. There is room for a yet greater difference of opinion along the Lemurian region, which embraces Madagascar and the Mascarene Islands. As yet we have not the full data for this; the fishes of that part of the globe have not been thoroughly examined and classified; till they are better known, the question should be left undecided. The South American division cannot be disputed. The Australian and Polynesian are separated chiefly on what may be called negative evidence, the one having a larce, insigenous fanna; the other, a remarkably small fauns. and Polynesian, Perhaps Antarctic might be added. Different writers have accepted some of these groups

large, indigenous fauna; the other, a remarkably small fauna.

The fishes are in general of the most persistent of types. Taking them as the basis, the globe might be regarded as containing two prime divisions, the first of which should include Arctic, North American, European, and Indian; all the rest would go in the other division. In Africa, South America, and Australia, there are certainly combined a number of features which differentiate them from the rest of the world; referring to the comparative antiquity of type, they might be called Eogea; the rest Cenorea. If in our classification we wish to present the earlier facts of distribution, we must go to work in one way; if the later facts, in abother. In the latter case the birds might farmish the best basis, All depends upon how we approach the problem. Mr. Allen's work deserves hearty praise from the members of the Academy; it supplements the book of Mr. Wallace. Dr. Coues took a similar view as to the excellence of Mr. Allen's work; it was philosophic in character. Yet it caunot be commared with the classification of Wallace, which is so obviously convenient that it needs no justification, and it will probably endure against the more philosophical due. Unou the question whether the Arctic fauna (palie or neo) presents a distinctive peculiarity or not. Dr. Coues said he wholly differed from Professor Gill replied that he did not materially differ in opinion from Dr. Coues. Professor Cope declared that he differed from both the speakers. His idea of distribution is that it must be regarded as something like the patches of color laid on successively in a chromo-lithograph, where cach hue bleuds with its predecessor. Professor Gill elseed the discussion, and laughter and cheers, with the assertion that he could not be more fortunate than in being thus followed by Mr. Cope, for despite what had been said, he fully and heartily agreed with him. This announcement was greeted with the more satisfaction, since the meeting was already a long one, and there was no una. The fishes are in general of the most persistent of

ROCKY MOUNTAIN LOCUSTS. Professor Charles V. Riley delivered an essay on "The Source, Movements, and Eastern Limit of the Locust

Swarms that Devastate the Trans-Mississippi Country." Before 1876 little was known accurately about the locust of the West, and especially little as to its movements: to-day we are in possession of much absolute knowledge of its habits, movements, and natural history. The destructive and migratory species (Caloptenio spretus Thos) affects three regions. The first of these the permanent region or native breeding-ground, east of the mountains, embraces the vast plains of the North west, between latitude 37° and 52°, and reaching about the 102d meridian, extending over about as large an area north or south of the United States boundary line. West of the main range there are more restricted areas. such as the Snake River, Cache and Malade Valleys. The floral and c'imatic conditions are similar to all this vast region; the Summers are dry and Intense, the Winters ong and severe; the atmosphere is rate and the vegetation in general sparse. It is mainly a boreal region; the tion in general sparse. It is mainly a force a bereal insect. The prevailing winds there, when the insect is attaining maturity and full wing, are from the northwest. The insect is always abundant in this region. Its causes for migrating are numerous, but chiefly arise from excessive multiplication; bunger driving the supercauses for migrating are numerous, but chiefly arise from excessive multiplication; hunger driving the superfluous number to seek food at a distance. The females also seek new places to be their eggs, morder to avoid the males during ovinosition. The locust is the prey of insect enemies, and to avoid these is doubtless driven to migrate. The tachyla-fles follow the locusts in dense swarms; the latter can only avoid their destroyers by rising high in air. Bordering the permanent region of the locust there is a sub-permanent and comparatively narrow area on the east, where the insect can perpetuate its race successively for some years, but it eventually disappears.

disappears.

The fertile country bordering the regions spoken of is of vast extent, and affords a temporary home for the swarms which devastate it at irregular latervals. But the locust does not thrive in this "temporary region," and varates it within a year. The last statement holds true for all east of the monatains and south of the forty-third parallel. The western border and the extreme northern portion partake more of the sub-permanent character. In the temporary region the species becomes diseased, and cannot hold its own, and in the Mississippi Valley there is always a return migration of those insects that hatch within it and do not perish of disease or enemies before they get wines. Their return is conspicuously toward the permanent region. It begins in April, in Texas, and continues from more northern areas till about the middle of July, and is aided by the prevailing winds of Anvil, May and June, which are loward the northwest; but the movement is instinctive, and not solety dependent on the wind. It is not occasioned by lunger.

Though the insect travels in a Summer from the Northwest Territors to Galveston, Tex., and from the Rocky. isappears.

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Though the insect travels in a Summer from the Northwest Territory to Galveston, Tex., and from the Rocky Mountains to Central fown, its exencisons have a well-defined limit at the castward, approximately along the bidgety-fourth meridian. More particularly this line may be drawn from the southern and of Lake Winnepeg to about twenty relies cast of St. Paul, Minn, thence south to Storey County, Iowa; thence westwardly to Northwest Missouri; thence to Pettis County, Mo; thence, with considerable directness, to the extreme northwest of Arkansas, and from there to Galveston, Tex. The causes of this limitation are cheffy atmospheric and climitation. The inequality of the initial control of the property of the considerable of the iteration of the initial fine for the local state of the initial line for the local state of the second of the country over which it ranges eastward. The limit line for the local state of the pairs and prairie feations. There is much

in the territory over which it ranges cas ward. The fine for the bount is that which separates the timbered areas from the plains and prarie regions. There is much subadiary evidence on this point. Another feature of importance is the unwillingness of the insect to lay eggs successively in the same locality; probably because the places where the eggs are had become the breeding grounds also of the locast's enamies.

The loss by locast's has been since 1873 not less than \$200,000,000 in the Western States and Territories. From this estimate indirect loss is excluded. The United States Enfomological Commission feels authorized to assure farmers that there will be no scrious injury from locasts this year, or for some years to come; and with project orecautions such devastations may be largely modified in the future. The essay of Professor Riley called forth a worm encombina from Professor Gill. An inquiry was made by Professor Haldeman whether there was any change in the popular tendency to call the insect a grasshopper. Professor Riley said that when he styled them locasts, in his earlier work at the West, recole scarcely knew what he meant; now they are beginning themselves to call the insects that when he styled them locasts, in his earlier work at the West, reode scarcely knew what he meant; now they are beginning themselves to call the meets by that name.

It is the custom of the Academy to prepare biograph-

t is the custom of the Academy to prepare longraph imemoirs of its deceased members. These are alwards published. The memoirs for the April season were of Professor D. H. Mahan, by General Henry Abbott, and of Professor Jeffries Wyman, by Professor A. S. Packard, it. Professor Guyot read at the vember meeting the first half of his memoir of Prosor Louis Agnesiz; the second part, relating to the first half of the reader of Prosor Louis Agnesiz, the second part, relating to the first half of the Academy. of the great naturalist in this country, was read fast week during an evening session of the Academy. W. C. W

LITERARY NOTES.

A new novel by Florence Montgomery, Scaforth," is published in Lo Several novels, said to be of striking ment. e already in press for Hurper's new " Library of American Fiction.

A new work on "Dr. Johnson: His Friends and his Critics," by George Birkbeck Hill, Pembroke College, Oxford, is in press in England. A richly illustrated "History of Italian

Painting from the Fourth to the Sixteenth Century," by Dr. Wilhelm Lübke, will shortly be issued in Germany. The sixth volume of M. Renan's "Origines do Christianisme" is in the printer's hands, but its progress through the press is delayed by the strike among the Paris compositors.

Captain Richard F. Burton's volume on "The Gold Mines of Midian, and the Ruined Midianite Cities," describing a fortulght's tour in Northwestern Arabia, is just published abroad.

The promised volume on "The Russians of Chalk," "The Member for Paris," etc., is just added to English "war literature."

Mr. Birket Foster is to publish a record of a recent tour, under the title "Brittany: A Series of Thirty-live Sketches." The drawings will be published in one volume, and printed or india paper.

Mr. G. J. Holyoake is about to print the secand part of his " History of the Cooperative Pioneers of Rochdale." The first part, which told their story from 1844 to 1857, has been translated into most Continental anguages. The second part brings down the narrative of their remarkable success twenty years later-namely,

The posthumous autobiography of Hackländer, " the German Dickens," which he entitled " The Romance of my Life," is now ready for publication, in two stout volumes, by Herr Krabbe, of Stuttgart. This autobiography of the popular German humorist comes own only to 1849, but it contains the most interesting and striking portion of his career, including his lengthy ourneys to Italy, Russia, etc.

A new novel by Mrs. Alfred Hunt, "The Hazard of the Die," which is announced to appearshortly in England, is heralded as peculiarly interesting to studeuts of the English country dialects. The scene has been laid in Yorkshire, at the beginning of this century, and Mrs. Hunt, who is a known authority on the peculitarities of the northern English dialects, has given spe etal attention to this particular, as far as could be com-prehensible to the general reader.

Mr. John Durand, who is now residing in England, makes the English translation of Talue's French Revolution" for publication there as well as here, Mr. Durand made the first translation into Engish from Taine's books, and of the thirteen volumes of Taine's works published by Henry Holt & Co.-the only uniform edition in existence—nine are translated by Americans, and five have never been published in Engish except in this country. "The expected to be ready in June.

The first volume is just ready in England of the Speaker's Commentary on the New Testament, which is to be completed in four volumes, and will, with the Commentary on the Old Testament already issued, bring the work up to a total of ten volumes. The general introduction to the New Testament is from the pen of Archbishop Thomason; the Gospel of St. Matthew is the combined work of the late Dean Mansel (Dr. Church's predecessor at St. Paul's) and the editor, Canon Cook, who also undertakes the Commentary on St. Mark. The volume closes with St. Luke, whose gospel is dealt with by the Bishop of St. Davids, Dr. Basil Jones, and the editor. Messrs, Scribner are the American publishers. The first volume of Messrs. Cassell's "New Testament Commentary for Euglish Readers," edited by Bishop Commencery for Eugene States and Edition, and E. P. Button & Co. bave been obliged to order a second supply for the American market.

" BEARING " THE SHAD MARKET.

FISHERMEN LAUGH AT THE REPORTS OF FINDING TRICHINAE IN SHAD.

Among dealers and fishermen, the statement that trichinae have been found in shad excites derision and hearty indignation. They laugh at the ignorance that, they say, the assertion reveals, and at the same time they are indignant at the injury to their business that it is sure to effect. "The theory," said one dealer, is the merest nonsense, and the man who advances it has never handled many fish. Shad feed on small fishes about half an inch long, and known to fishermen under the name of 'shad lice.' These they swallow whole. I have never found anything different in the fish

the name of 'shad lice.' These they swallow whole. I have never found anything different in the fish. I never fed on offal or garbage or anything of the kind. These statements have seriously offected the sale and price of the fish, as is shown by the course of the market. On Saturday North River shad sold very low, while Connectient River brought very good prices."

"Shad always have worms," said another large dealer, "and later in the serison they are very large. They are small white worms about the size of a horse-bair, and are found usually in the gills or just under the scales. About the first of June I have scen them long enough to go around my hand, but I have rarely seen them in North River shad until toward the close of the season. But I presume that this man has found what the fish fred on—a kind of slug or shring, the only thing I ever found in a shad's stomach. The shad is a clear water fish, and would never feed on garbage. They are always on the move, and to catch them you have to set the nets in a tide way where there is a constant circulation. If they were in the habit of feeding on garbare you would find them near their food, wouldn't you! Well, that' is precisely where you will

never find them. In all kinds of fish I have found never find them. In all kinds of fish I have found worms, in sea bass, and even cod."

Another dealer was still more emphatic: "The man who made up that story," he said, "may be a naturalist, but he don't know anything about said. But it is very plain to see the motive—to stop the catching of shad. If I should attempt to blackmail him he would be very indignant, but he blackmail him he would be very indignant, but he blackmails me and injures my business, and then claims to be a benefactor of mankind. The food of the shad is the shrimp, or a smail transparent fish like the shrimp. Shad feed on garbage! It is absurd. Why! you cannot catch a shad with hook and bait, and the oldest fisherman on Staten Island never heard of such a thing. That is proof that they do not feed on garbage. This is only a running fight with the officials. Shad-men have always had to (here the speaker put one hand behind his back and made mysterious motions) and they are not doing it as much as they were. They cannot now afford to do so, and that is the difficulty. The publication of this story has reduced our sales fully one-half, and especially affects the peddler trade—the winding up of the stock."

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE.

The next International Sunday-School Convention will be held at Toronto in 1881.

The Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs, of Brooklyn, ectures on "St. Bernard and His Times," at Princeton Seminary next term.

The anniversary of the Seamens' Friend Solety, which will be celebrated on Monday evening next. is the semi-centenary celebration. The General Eldership of the Church of God

(Winchennarians) will meet at Kosciusko, Ind., on the oth day of this month. It will be the twelfth triennia Dr. Burgess will be consecrated as Bishop

of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Quincy, Iil., at his own church in Springfield, Mass. Bishop Huntington will deliver the sermon

The Reformed (Dutch) Board of Publication have successfully surmounted their pecuniary embarrassments, and will immediately resume business in this city. The rooms are in Vesey-st. The following State Sunday-school Conven-

tions will be, held this month : Maine, at Bath, 14th; East Tennessee, at Jonesboro, 16th; Ellinois, at Deca-tur, 21st; Missouri, at Sedalia, 28th. The Southern Baptist Convention will meet

at Nashville on May 9. It will represent the associations and churches of twelve States, and the Indian Territory. The Rev. Dr. J. P. Boyce, is expected to preside. The receipts of the Baptist Missionary Union or the presant year just closed, were \$218,307, which is

\$7,000 less than the receipts of last year. The debt of nearly \$48,000, with which the year began, has been paid off. The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions has thus far a deficiency in its annual contributions of \$15,000; this deficit is more than made

up by the excess in legacies over last year, which is The receipts of the American Missionary Association, for the six months ending March 31, were \$85,752. The Association has also received \$9,921 toward the payment of its debt, with the conditions pledge of \$6,950 more.

Eight hundred persons have joined the churches of Hartford as the fruit of the meetings held in that city by Messrs. Moody and Sankey. Three hundred conversions have followed the labors of Measrs, Pente-cost and Stebbins in Middletown, Conn.

The Southern Methodist Episcopal Church. whose General Conference is now in session at Atlanta, reports for the year 1877, 774,742 ministers and mem ers. The Sunday-School scholars are 353.163. The ravelling preachers are 3,439; local preachers, 5,684. Dr. Talmage's Lay College will hereafter be

in charge of a Board of Trustees. He will himself be President; in addition to lectures by the Faculty, lectures will be delivered by Bishop Foster, Drs. Duryen, Armitage, and others. The next term opens the second Thesday in October. The death is announced of Miss Priscilla

one of the missionaries of the American Board, at Erzerum, Turkey. Erzerum is scourged with typhus fever, which the American missionaries are doing their utmost to relieve; while engaged in this service Miss Nicholson lost her life. The decision given by Bishop Andrews at

the New-York Conference, that the Methodist discipline does not authorize the licensing of women to preach, is in harmony with previous decisions of bishops of the church. Prenching by women is, nevertheless, an established Methodist practice. The German Baptist Publication Society took possession of their new building, in Cleveland, a few

days ago. This society was organized in 1866, at the

trienutal Conference of the German Baptists of the United States and Canada, held in Berlin, Ontario. It represents 134 pastors and 8,000 members. The income of the Peabody School Fund has fallen from \$100,000 to 1876 to \$60,000 in 1877. The fall is due to the decline of revenue from real estate

About \$1,000,000 have been disbursed from real estate. About \$1,000,000 have been disbursed from the fund in ten years. It is said that the disbursement of this sum was led to the appropriation of nine millions by Southern States. The National Union of Young Men's Catholic cicties will hold their Fourth Annual Convention in Buffalo, May 22. The object of this Union is to band together "the various sodalities, literary and benevolent

associations throughout the United States, and to form new societies in every parish, where none exist." It has been in operation for three years. At the annivesary of the Spurgeon's Pastor's College, held in London last month, it was stated that fifty-three chapels had been erected in the London District alone, through the agency of that institution. Since 1865, 32,477 persons have been baptis cated in the college, and the number in church fellowship of the churches in their charge is 37,597.

The 9th of May will be the jubilee of the abolition of the corporation and test acts in England, which was effected in 1828. Lord John Russell, one of the advocates of this measure of justice, still lives. By the terms of the test act, public emoluments and honor were limited to those Englishmen who partook of the Lord's Supperaccording to the rites of the church by law established.

The meetings at Thousand Island Park, in the St. Lawrence River, will be held with short intervals from July 10 to August 23. The Annual Camp Meeting will open July 10 and close July 21. A scientific con ference will be held from July 23 to 29. There will be an International Temperance Meeting from July 31 to August 6; a Young Men's Christian Association Convention, presided over by H Thane Miller, from August 1 to 11 and the Sunday-School Parliament from August 13

The Methodist Advocate of April 10 contains complete tables of the statistics of the (Northern) Meth-odist Episcopal Church in the South. There are 14 concrences of white ministers and members, containing in all 206,204 members; 14 colored conferences, containing 189,803 preachers and members, making a total of nearly 400,000 ministers and members. In the confer ences of whites the total value of church property is \$6,864.123; in the colored conferences, not quite \$1,-

New-York leads the other States in the number of Sunday school teachers and scholars, the being 903,399; Pennsylvania has both 860,290; Obio, 621,702; Illineis, 529,829; Massa chusetts, 300,472; Indiana, 363,712; Iowa, 380, out Canada has a total of 381,636 teacher and scholars. Thirty States have State Asso ciations; seven have a County Association in every county; but seven States and Territories have no State

The Scotch heresy cases have been carried up from the presbyteries to the synods. The Sy-Aberdeen declaring the only charge in the case of Profes sor Smith, found relevant by the presbytery, to be irrelevant. The Free Synod of Glasgow, in the case of Dr. Dods, adopted, by a vote of 31 to 21, a motion sustaining the complaint against him, "in so far as the Presbytery did not condomn with sufficient emphasis the view that there are errors in Scripture as orginally given." Appeal from the Synod was taken.

In taking the secretaryship of the Congregational Union, now to be a society for church building the Rev. Dr. Wm. B. Brown, of Newark, says: "I am expected to take on myself the responsibility and work of two secretaries and a clerk. I am to become for a time as nearly ubiquitous as possible. I am to take the society in the midst of these depressed and depressing times, and when it is under criticism on account of the cost of administration as compared with the amount or receipts.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

THE MODERN COOK. By Charles E. Francatelli. Svo. pp. 585. (Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Bros.)

THE FALL OF DAMASCUS. An Historical Nove By Charles Wells Russell. 12m (Boston: Lee & Shepard)......

ESSAYS FROM ELIA. By Charles Lamb. 24mo pp. 94. (Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co.)..

FAVORITE POEMS. By Leigh Hunt. 24mo. pp. 112. (Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co.).... KERAMOS AND OTHER POEMS. By Henry Wadsworth Longfetlow. 12mo. pp. 148. (Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co.)...
ENDLESS PUNISHMENT. By Nehemlah Adams, D. D. 16mo. (Boston: D. Lethrop).......

THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW. Sermons. By Charles H. Hall, D. D. 12mo. pp. 180. (f. PETTENGILL'S NEWSPAPER DIRECTORY FOR 1878. 8vo. pp. 332. (S. M. Pettengill & Co.)......

FEDERAL CITATIONS. By Robert Desty. Svo. pp. 810. (San Francisco: Sumuer, Whitney REED ORGAN MELODIES. A collection of popul nusic. By Wm. Horatic Clarke. 4to. pp. 20 Boards. (Boston: Oliver Ditson & Co.)..

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